

WASHINGTON -U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today released the following statement regarding Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's visit to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport:

"The \$28 million in stimulus funding Secretary LaHood announced for Sky Harbor, and other Arizona airports, is exciting news. These funds will provide an immediate spark to the economy here in Arizona. They will help create jobs as well as improve the airports which are major economic development tools.

"I am also excited that Secretary LaHood was able get a first hand look at the People Mover project at Sky Harbor. The airport generates \$33 billion in economic impact according to an ASU study. When completed, the People Mover will greatly enhance Sky Harbor's contribution to our regional economy.

"Last month, I was privileged to host a visit to the People Mover by U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar to show him first-hand the excellent work happening on the project.

"I am glad that both the chairman and the secretary have now had the opportunity to see such a worthy project that will create thousands of jobs and pump millions of dollars into our local economy. It is these types of projects that will spur our economic recovery, particularly with the federal government's partnership through investments of stimulus and other funding."

Rep. Harry Mitchell is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and voted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as the stimulus bill, which passed the House on January 28, by a vote of 244 to 188, and was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The measure is now Public Law Number 111-5.

Congressman Mitchell will join Secretary LaHood, Valley mayors and Metro Light Rail officials for another major announcement regarding transit funding at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the Metro Operations and Maintenance Center, 605 S. 48<sup>th</sup> St., Phoenix.